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May 11, 1999

Jane E. Henney
FDA Commissioner
Parklawn Building, Rm. 14-71
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I believe that all meat, poultry, produce, and other food products should be clearly labeled if they have been irradiated. While irradiation may be useful for killing E.coli and other potentially harmful bacteria, it does not bug-proof food and there are reasons to be concerned about its use. It doesn't prevent sloppy handling at the plant, at home, or in restaurants, which could recontaminate food after it's been irradiated, and it involves moving radioactive material around the country, always a risky proposition. As a health-conscious person, I want to know the most relevant facts about any food product I buy, so that I can make informed choices about safe and healthy foods, and avoid those that are laden with known or potentially harmful elements. I plan to avoid irradiated food whenever possible, and I will not knowingly consume it. I think this is also a matter of public health and safety. Consumers need to be able to identify irradiated foods at the supermarket and in restaurants. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



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